GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:534
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2015
Radiation Norms
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government strictly observes/routinely checks the radiation norms specially for private companies providing mobile services covering large areas under one mobile tower by overstretching and bye-passing the radiation norms causing harm to human health and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the monitoring agencies are not well equipped to measure Electro Magnetic Radiation (EMR) of mobile towers in any of the 30 Telecom Enforcement and Resource Monitoring (TERM) cells and depend blindly on data provided by mobile operating companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to equip the monitoring agencies and engage trained professional therein to have a check on adverse impact of EMR?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) &(b) Yes Madam, one of the major functions of Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells is to evaluate the compliance to the Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure norms of the Mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as prescribed by Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

In this regard, TERM Cells carry out audit of up to 10% of the BTSs annually on random basis to cross-check EMF radiation exposure norms in addition to conducting testing of BTSs based on the complaints received from various sources including general public.
In addition to above, to ensure that the EMF radiation levels of all the BTSs in the country are within permissible limits, DoT has instructed TSPs to submit self certificates for all the existing BTSs sites on biennial basis that they are compliant to EMF radiation norms. Further, self certificates are also required to be submitted by TSPs before commercial radiation of new BTS as well as on up-gradation of existing BTS.
As on 30.09.2015, a total of 2,33,035 number of BTSs have been tested by various TERM Cells, out of which a total of 186 BTSs have been found non-compliant to EMF radiation norms. Suitable penal action as prescribed has been taken against defaulting TSPs on account of these violations.
TERM Cells impose a financial penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs on defaulting TSPs for non-compliant BTSs found during testing as per the prescribed DoT guidelines which acts as a deterrent for TSPs to keep the radiation levels within prescribed limits. Further, if the BTS/shared BTS site is not made compliant to the EMF radiation norms within one month (30 days), the same shall be shut down in addition to the levy of financial penalty as mentioned above.

(c) &(d) No, all the testing related to measurement of EMF radiation to cross check the compliance of EMF radiation norms is being carried out by the officers of TERM Cells itself and are not dependent on TSPs for providing the measurement data.

(e) The testing of the mobile BTS sites is carried out by suitably technically qualified personnel posted in various TERM Cells across the country. Further, to well equip the TERM Cells, it is stated that tender for procurement of EMF Strength Measuring Instruments and other Devices has already been floated and the process of procurement has been initiated.